(b) if so, whether Government would establish wildlife sanctuaries in Jammu and Kashmir for the same and attract more tourist lovers of wild life;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The declaration of an area as wildlife sanctuary falls under the domain of the concerned State Government.

FPIs Role in diversification and commercialisation of agriculture

526. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Processing Sector is playing a vital role in diversification and commercialisation of agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Food processing sector promotes production of processable variety of agricultural produce, makes value addition and enhances shelf-life of agricultural produce, minimizes waste, generates employment, prevents distress sale, ensures remunerative income to farmers etc.

Food Processing Policy

527. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal/draft for a Food Processing Policy, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed steps to tackle the high cost of the food processing structure like storage facility transaction costs, multiplicity of regulators and infrastructure;

(c) whether fishery resources and products and its related industry are also associated with the above policy;

(d) if so, the steps to be taken to tackle the production cost and other facilities in the industry related to fisheries; and

(e) the details of the food processing units in various States as on today, State-wise and category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Draft Food Processing Policy analyses the major constraints being faced by food processing industries including fisheries sector such as non-availability of adequate infrastructural facilities, lack of adequate quality control and testing infrastructure, inefficient supply chain, lack of processable varieties of farm produce, seasonality of raw material, high inventory carrying cost, lack of easy and concessional credit/lending by banks, high taxation, high packaging cost, affordability and cultural preference of fresh food. Draft Policy seeks to address these issues. The matter regarding Integrated Food Law is before the Group of Ministers (GoM). As directed by GoM the Draft Integrated Food Law has been prepared and circulated to State Governments and other Stakeholders for their comments.

(e) As food processing units are mostly in unorganized sector, the information regarding details of such units State-wise and category-wise is not maintained Centrally.

National Food Processing Policy

528. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Food Processing Policy, 2005 has envisaged doubling of production and exports within next five years;

(b) if so, what are the other main features of the policy;